

Montana Statewide Forest Resource Assessment & Response Strategy

Implementation



National Strategy Focus

- Shape and Influence Forest Land Use, Optimize Public Benefits
- Focus – State and National Issues
- Prioritize – Use Best Information Assess Conditions and Prioritize
- Outcomes – Utilize Collaboration and Landscapes – Changes on Ground
- National Themes
 - Conserve Working Forest Landscapes
 - Protect Forests From Harm
 - Enhance Benefits From Trees And Forests
- Resource Strategy
 - General Focus Areas – Strategic Issues – Action Items - Outcomes

Five Focus Areas...

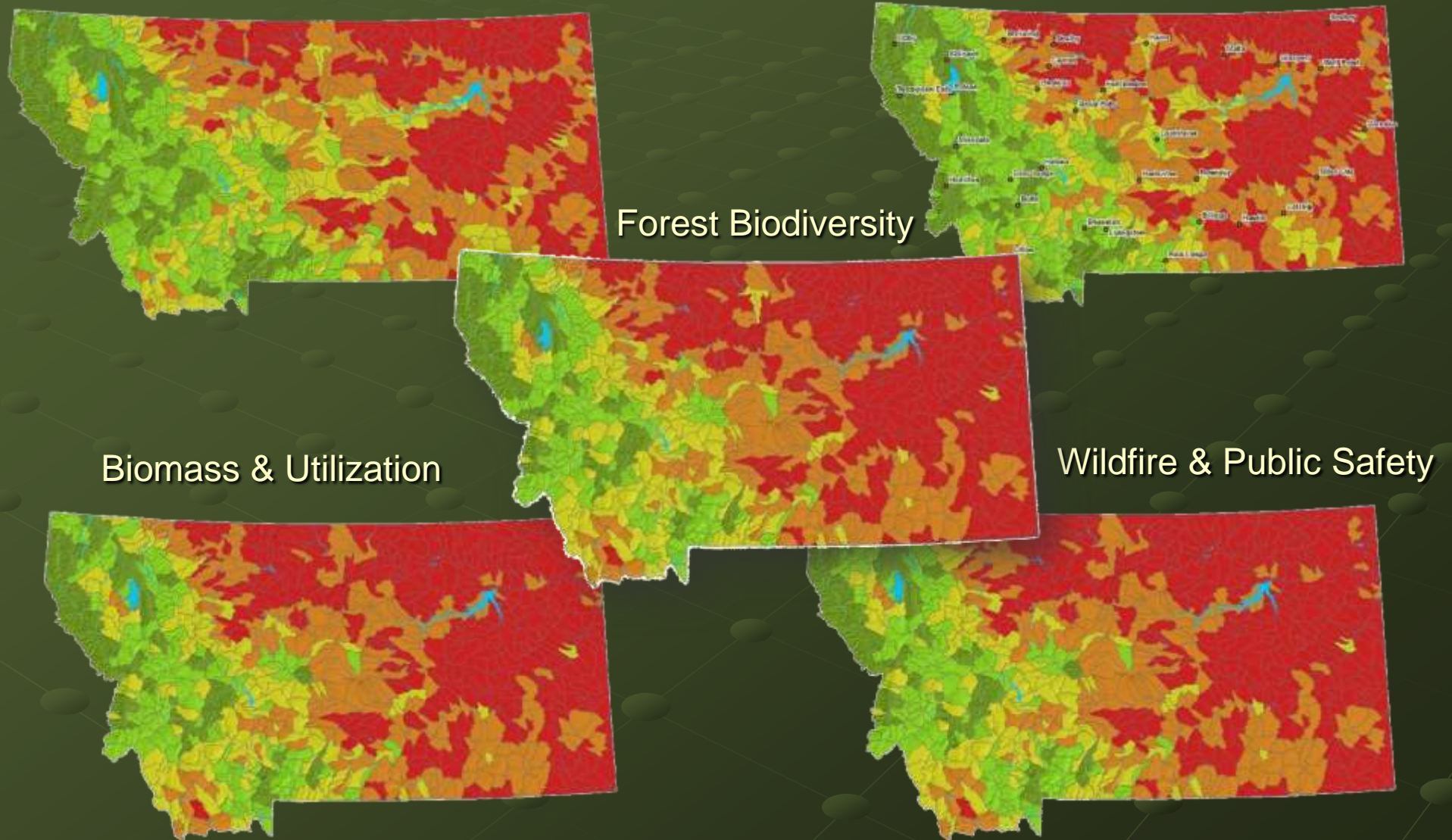
Forest Ownership Patterns

Sustainable Urban Landscapes

Forest Biodiversity

Biomass & Utilization

Wildfire & Public Safety



Focus Area 1: Forest Biodiversity & Resiliency	YEARS			DELIVERABLES
	2011	2012	2013	
Strategy 1: Manage ecosystem and biotic composition to achieve ecological integrity through recovery of species diversity, water quality and quantity, soil quality and function by implementing best available science, and adaptive management				
Participate in the development of monitoring protocols, at both the project level and broad scale, and programs to help inform adaptive management.		x		Develop project monitoring protocols.
		X		Develop broadscale monitoring approaches using FIA inventory data.
		x		Provide analysis of FIA data on ALL lands in Montana.
Protect and improve watershed health, including stream, soil and riparian functions.	x	x	x	Direct grant proposals towards critical landscapes.
Prioritize funding for National Fire Plan Western States Wildland Urban Interface grant applications which clearly demonstrate an intention to employ treatments which restore fire resistant conditions in fire adapted vegetation types through mechanical and prescribed fire treatments.	x	x	x	Develop and employ a minimum of 1 screening criteria to award additional points to project applications with a restoration focus.
Provide technical guidance to grant recipients in developing treatment plans and prescriptions which emulate historic disturbance and promote forest resiliency by forest type and fire regime.	x	x	x	Ensure specific treatment plan criteria is integrated into new grants agreements.
				Inspect projects a minimum of once per year to provide feedback and adjust plans.
Reestablish fire as a natural process on National Forest System Lands through mechanical treatments and then reintroduction of prescribed fire. Should be tailored to specific fire regimes of each forest type. MANAGED FIRE IN ROADLESS AREAS	x	x	x	Develop diverse severity- mixed conifer guidance for NFS restoration projects.
Improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity.		x		Develop statewide climate change/ adaptation/carbon mitigation plan.

Note: those items in the table which are shaded have been identified as important tasks which fall outside of DNRC's State & Private Forestry program authorities.

- White Boxes – S&PF authorities – we can make the decisions
- Brown Boxes – Important but not our direct decision, we can influence.
- Already doing much of these items

Strategy Key Points

- Living Dynamic Document
 - Just Getting Started
 - Adapt And Change As Conditions Change
 - Focus Area Working Groups Flesh Out Strategies
 - Add Field Staff to Groups
 - Utilize SAWG To Maintain Partner Participation
- Focus
 - Deliver State & Private Forestry Programs
 - Maintain Mills, Woods Workers, Existing and New Forest Products
 - Healthy, Safe, Working Forests – Rural and Urban
 - Landscape and Partners
 - Coordinated and complimentary delivery of State and Private Forestry Programs
 - Coordinated and complimentary cross boundary project planning and implementation
- Direct Tie To FD/TLMD Goal Of "Exert Leadership In The Stewardship Of Montana's Natural Resources."

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE ON THE GROUND

What are we doing and thinking
about so far

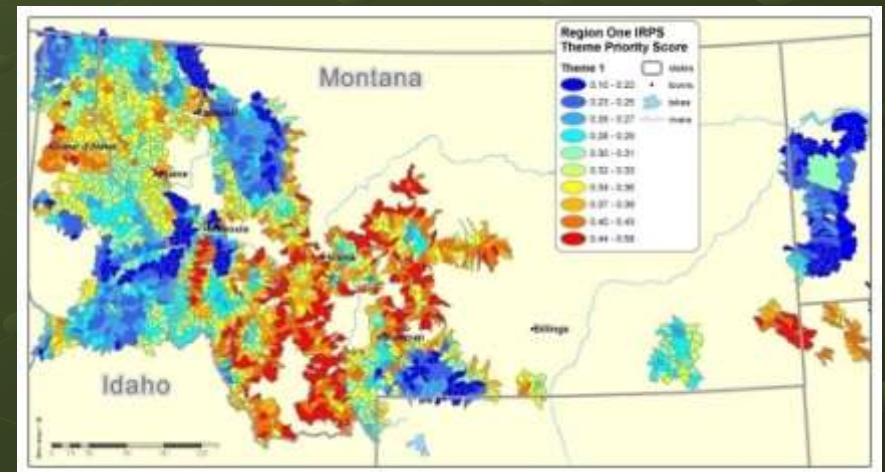
Working Toward A Landscape Approach

- Recognized Importance Cross Boundary Watershed (Landscape) Management In Meeting Resource Needs
- Multiple Agency Partners – DNRC, USFS, BLM, FWP, NRCS, DEQ – How Might We Work Together On This
- Most Partners Have Or Are Developing Tools Similar To Our State Assessment

FWP Crucial Areas Planning System



USFS R-1 Integrated Restoration & Protection Strategy Version 2

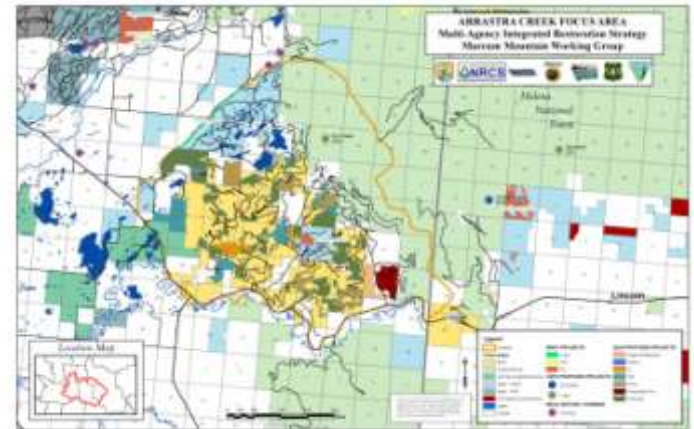
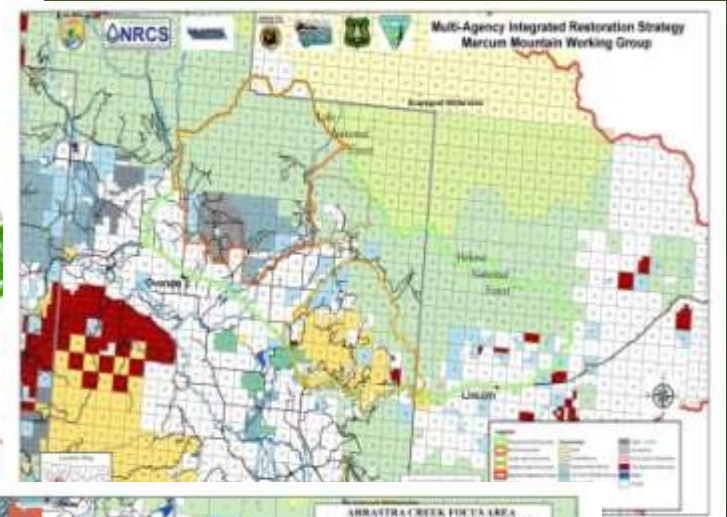
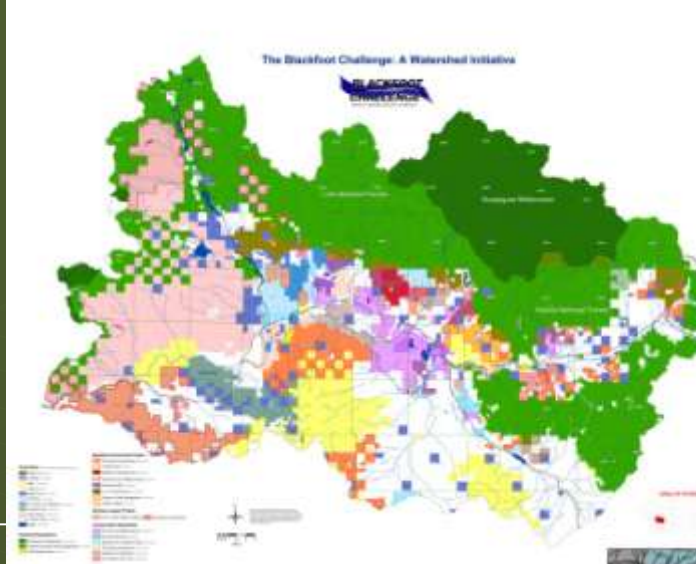


BLM Landscape Approach



Working Toward A Landscape Approach

- Recognized Importance Cross Boundary Landscape Management In Meeting Resource Needs
- General Landscape/Partners Concept
 - Use GIS tools to identify priority watershed
 - Put ownership layer over watershed
 - Work with landowners (Agency and Private) and other local groups and partners within watershed to develop cooperative complimentary projects
- Pilot Project In Blackfoot
 - SA type tools and collaboration to identify area
 - Local staff to develop project



PARTNERS:
 Clearwater Unit
 Seeley LK. RD
 Lincoln RD
 Missoula FWP
 Missoula BLM
 Missoula FWS
 N. Powell NRCS
 Helena DEQ
 Blackfoot Challenge

Private Landowner
 Assistance

Workshops
 Technical Assistance
 Management Plans
 Project Design
 Financial Assistance

Next Maps:
 Current Vegetation
 Past Treatments
 I&D Flight Map
 Fire Risk Map
 Update Proposed Treatments Map

Lessons Learned

- Field Efforts Go Very Well
- Trying To Get Projects Into Various Budgeting, Resource Allocation and Planning Processes Challenging
- Culture Change –
 - Communication of concept through Agency
 - Commitment through Agency's Hierarchy

Next Steps For Multiple Agency Group

- Develop A Project Planning Strategy That Gets Out Ahead Of Various Budgeting And Project Planning Processes
- Present To Agency's Leadership And Get Commitment To Facilitate Down Through Organization
- DNRC – Determine If This Can Work For Us And Play An Active Role In Developing The Project Planning Process

Current and Proposed Implementation Strategies

- Forestry Assistance Programs Delivery
- FA, TLMD, F&AM Interface
- External Partners – Landscape Approach
 - Coalition Of The Willing
 - Longer Term Landscape Mgt Planning

Forestry Assistance Programs Delivery

- Maximize S&PF Programs Integration
- Using SA To Assist In Identifying Project Areas
- Incorporating SA /RS Into Grant Application And Ranking Criteria – Getting The Word To Partners
- Incorporating Use Of Contractors And Product Delivery Into Grants
- Competitive Grants Working Toward Landscapes, Partners, Multiple Funding Sources

FA, TLMD, F&AM Interface

- First look at partners and landscapes – Set the example
- Outreach the concept to field offices
- Field staff on Focus Groups
- Utilize SA tool to identify collaborative opportunities and develop cooperative complimentary actions in a watershed project
- Fits with our Goal of stewardship leadership

External Partners – Landscape Approach

- Existing Projects – Coalition Of The Willing
 - Identify landowner partners in project watersheds and incorporate those willing and able to participate
- Longer Term – Continue Working With Multi Agency Group To Develop Protocol And Culture Change

Wrap Up

- Just getting started
- Already doing quite a bit
- Considerable opportunity
- Would like input from field staffs - Work Groups?
- Determine how our two divisions want to move forward with this model
- Keep moving forward with activities already underway

The background is a dark green color with a subtle 3D grid pattern. The grid consists of small, rounded cubes or spheres arranged in a perspective view, receding into the distance. The word "END" is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

END